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4 April 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Twelfth session
25 March-4 April 1991
Agenda item 12

# PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE

Note by the Secretariat

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the following draft provisional agenda has been prepared on the basis of existing legislative authority and will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council for review, in conformity with Council resolution 1979/41.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Water resources: progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.19, operative para. 9)

Compendium of legislative mandates adopted by the various entities of the United Nations system relevant to water resources (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.19, operative para. 10)

4. Mineral resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means to facilitate the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to developing countries and on investment possibilities in developing countries and including recommendations of meetings relating to mineral resources (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.18, paras. 2, 3 and 4)

Report of the Secretary-General on samll-scale mining activities in developing countries (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.18, para. 5)

5. Energy resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.16, para. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means by which energy policy objectives proposed by the World Bank to developing countries could correspond to the policies and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.16, para. 7)

Report of the Secretary-General on human resources development in the field of energy (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.16, para. 8)

6. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring and for assessing natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on efforts to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries in the application of remote-sensing techniques (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.21, para. 5)

7. United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

Documentation

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration.

8. Permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.20, para. 5)

9. Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing natural resources.

10. Coordination of programmes within the United Nations system in the field of natural resources and biennial programme of work and priorities of the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General updating an overview of the activities of the United Nations system in water, mineral and energy resources (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.22, para. 2)

Report of the Secretary-General containing a compilation of relevant decisions emanating from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the area of natural resources (draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.22, para. 5)

11. Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Committee.

12. Adoption of the report of the Committee at its thirteenth session.

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Agenda item 3

ENERGY RESOURCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.6

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Development and efficient use of energy resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 1/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

Recalling also Assembly resolutions 40/208 of 17 December 1985 and 45/209 of 21 December 1990 on the development of the energy resources of developing countries,

Recalling further its resolutions 1987/10 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/6 of 22 May 1989,

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1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3, annex.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Recognizing that revitalization of the economic growth and development of developing countries and the process of integration of economies in transition into the world economy may lead in certain cases to an increase in energy demand,

Recognizing also that in view of increased energy demand, new and additional investments and strengthened energy policies, including conservation and efficient management of energy resources, will be needed to prevent energy shortages,

Concerned that shortage of energy in developing countries is causing serious disruption of economic activities,

Affirming that the exploitation of energy sources in developing countries, including the tapping of available hydropower potential and other sources of energy, adequately harnessed with appropriate capital and technological inputs, could help to contribute to the solution of energy shortages in those countries,

Reaffirming that the developing countries have the primary responsibility for their strategies and policies for the exploration and development of their energy resources, including the need to mobilize financial resources, internal and external, in order to develop their national technical skills and capabilities in the energy sector,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on energy resources; 3/

2. Reaffirms the need for the United Nations system to intensify its efforts to promote the international exchange of experience and knowledge and the flow of efficient technologies, especially new and emerging ones, to developing countries;

3. Acknowledges the need to facilitate access for developing countries to energy efficient technologies and research, and in that context, calls upon the United Nations system and developed countries to support the development of national endeavours of developing countries as well as regional and interregional cooperation;

4. Calls upon the international community, including developed countries, to make available to the developing countries technology and financial resources in order to enable them to fully unfold their potential capabilities in the field of new and renewable sources of energy, including their vast potential hydropower;

5. Urges multilateral and regional financial institutions, as well as donor countries, to allocate financial resources, so as to promote programmes

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3/ E/C.7/1991/9, E/C.7/1991/12 and E/C.7/1991/13.

and technical cooperation projects to support energy resource development in the developing countries;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on trends and salient issues in energy, including information on ways and means of enhancing both energy efficiency and conservation, as well as of increasing the development of economically viable energy resources, and containing the relevant conclusions and recommendations of international and regional seminars, workshops and conferences organized by the United Nations that address energy issues;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee at its thirteenth session a report on ways and means by which the energy policy objectives proposed by the World Bank to the developing countries and the policies and objectives contained in General Assembly resolution 45/199 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade could correspond;

8. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report for the Committee at its thirteenth session on programmes under way and planned for human resources development in the field of energy, including, inter alia, measures for required institutional strengthening through advisory services, on-the-job training, external fellowships and comprehensive training packages.

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# UNITED NATIONS REVOLVING FUND FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EXPLORATION

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. E. Mamfoumbi (Gabon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.7

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 3167 (XXVII) of 17 December 1973 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1762 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, concerning the establishment of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,

Recallling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 87/11 of 26 May 1987 and 89/9 of 22 May 1989,

Recognizing the important role of the Fund in providing assistance to developing countries in the development of their natural resources,

Noting the efforts made to sustain the activities of the Fund despite limited financial support,

Noting also the requirement of continued financial support to the Fund, bearing in mind the need to ensure its revolving nature through replenishment contributions,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme; 1/

2. Welcomes the first replenishment payment received by the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration as a result of the discovery and exploitation of a chromite deposit in the Philippines, and notes the active participation of the Fund in connection with the successful discovery of a high-grade silver deposit in Ecuador;

3. Takes note of the efforts made to reduce administrative costs by integrating the management of the Fund with that of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development;

4. Calls upon Member States to consider increasing their financial support for the Fund by means of, in particular, voluntary contributions.

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1/ DP/1991/44.

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MINERAL RESOURCES

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. L. Hjelmaker (Sweden), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/C.7/1991/L.8

The Committee on Natural Resources recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

## Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, 1/ and of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/

Recalling also its resolutions 1985/47 of 25 July 1985, 1987/8 of 26 May 1987 and 1989/5 of 22 May 1989 concerning mineral resources,

Stressing the significance of mineral resources in the economic and social development of the developing countries,

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1/ General Assembly resolution S-18/3.

2/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Reaffirming the permanent sovereignty of States over their natural resources,

Recognizing the need for substantial flows of financial resources and transfer of technology to developing countries to enable them to explore and develop their mineral resources,

Acknowledging the important role that the United Nations system can play in the field of mineral resources, through, inter alia, its technical cooperation activities and advisory services in support of mineral resources exploration and development in the developing countries,

Bearing in mind the invaluable impact of small-scale mining on the economic and social development process of the developing countries and its identification as an economic activity providing significant employment opportunities,

Aware of the need to balance small-scale mining operations with the improvement of social working conditions and benefits and the consideration of health and safety hazards,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Trends and salient issues in the development of mineral resources: a review of recent supply, demand/consumption and price trends" 3/ and "Small-scale mining prospects in developing countries: a review of recent activities"; 4/

2. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Committee on Natural Resources at its thirteenth session a report on ways and means to facilitate the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries in order to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of their mineral sectors;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to include in his report information on existing programmes in governmental, intergovernmental and, to the extent possible, private programmes as well as proposals for investment possibilities in developing countries to support the efforts of developing countries in securing investments they require for the development of their mineral resources;

4. Further requests the Secretary-General to include in his report the conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars relating to mineral resources, in particular, the Conference on Mining and Environment, to be held

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3/ E/C.7/1991/4.

4/ E/C.7/1991/5.

in Berlin in June 1991, including the feasibility of establishing geological information systems in developing countries to assist the development of mineral resources, for consideration of and follow-up action by the Committee at its thirteenth session;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Committee on Natural Resources on recent positive achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries, national legislation regarding the activities of enterprises in this area as well as on progress achieved in the establishment of demonstration and training projects for the transfer of small-scale mining technology, methods and national approaches and international cooperation for maximizing the benefits of small-scale mining for economic and social development in developing countries, including information on the economic contribution of women in small-scale mining.

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